Strategy for corporatisation of major ports

555. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a strategy to make major ports run like independent profit centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have invited suggestions on the strategy from Industrial Chambers and Port users;

(d) if so, the details of the suggestions made; and

(e) the development made towards corporatisation of ports.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPING (SHRI SU.THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) Efforts are made on a continuous basis to improve the working of major ports and to facilitate them in taking prompt decisions in a commercial environment. Government has decided to corporatise Major Ports in a phased manner. At present, Major Port Trusts are required to prepare Annuals Statement of income and expenditure, which merely shows operating surplus and they do not maintain accounts on commercial lines; nor do they maintain profit and loss accounts. Corporatisation of major ports would make profit and loss statements mandatory and will lead to the establishment of commercial accounting practices, creation of profit centres and drawing up of balance sheets. Major Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Parliament which seeks to amend Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to enable the Government to corporatize existing 11 Major Ports. The said Bill stands referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism for examination and report. The 12 Major Port at Ennor has been set up as a corporate entity under the Companies Act, 1956. Consultation with the Industries Chamber, Port users, Port operators etc., is a continuous process.

Sale of surplus land by certain ports

556. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai and Kolkata Port Trusts have been authorised to sell huge tracts of their surplus land;